

Wesham

SHAP URBAN DISTRICT HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1920.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council of Shap.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report for the year 1920, compiled in accordance with your instructions and those of the Ministry of Health.

The advent of a new Census to be taken this year will greatly facilitate the correct compilation of Statistics and Ratios.

My thanks are extended to your Officials who have rendered me excellent assistance on all occasions, as also to the members of the Medical Profession, whose willing co-operation has been a most valuable asset towards a constructive policy of preventive medicine.

I am,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. BARON COCKILL,

Medical Officer of Health.

March 21st, 1921.

Report.

Area (land and inland water)	...	...	2,082 acres
Population (census 1911)	...	...	1,006
Population (Registrar General's Estimate)	...	...	978
Population (Local Estimate)	...	...	1,000
Inhabited Houses	...	...	253
Average Population per house	...	...	3.9

The Village of Shap is situated on Limestone Rocks, at an altitude of 900 feet above sea level and consists in the main of a street about a mile in length. At both ends it merges into open country. Granite is found towards the southern portion of the area. The climate is bracing in Summer and cold in Winter.

The chief industry is Agriculture, but the Granite Works afford employment to a number of hands and this industry is expected to develop. There are a number of railway workers accommodated in Shap, and of recent years there has been an increasing number of visitors coming for the benefit of their health in the pure bracing air.

Vital Statistics.

BIRTHS.							DEATHS.			INFANT DEATHS.					
Crude	Corrected	Legitimate.		Illegitimate.		Rate per 1,000 Population	Crude	Corrected	Rate per 1,000 Population	Legitimate.		Illegitimate.		Total.	
		Males	Females	Males	Females					Number	Rate per 1,000 births	Number	Rate per 1,000 births	Number	Rate per 1,000 births
20	19	10	5	1	3	19.4	11	13	13.4	2	105	0	0	2	105

Comparative Rates.

District.				Birth	Death	Infant D'th.
Shap	...	...	..	19.4	13.4	105
Westmorland	...	...	...	21.6	13.9	66
England and Wales	...	...	...	25.4	12.4	80

Causes of Death.

Cancer	Meningitis	Organic Heart Disease	Pneumonia	Congenital Debility	Other Defined Diseases	TOTAL
1	1	2	2	1	6	13

Special Death Rates per 1,000 Population.

Influenza	Other Tuberculous Diseases.	Cancer	Pneumonia
0	0	1.02	2.04

Analysis of Infant Deaths.

Cause.	1 week	1-2 w'ks	2-3 w'ks	3-4 w'ks	und'r 1 m'th	1-3 m'ths	3-6 m'ths	6-9 m'ths	9-12 m'ths	und'r 1 year
Bronchial Pneumonia								1		1
Premature Birth	1				1					1
Totals.	1				1			1		2

Still Births notified, 1.

The amount of Poor Law Relief is indicated by the following facts :—

Average daily population in Institutions ... 3
Annual Population receiving Out-door Relief ... 6

The Westmorland County Hospital and Penrith Hospital supply the necessary accommodation required for hospital treatment.

Sanitary Conditions of the District.

Water—

The water supply for Shap Village is derived from two sources at either end of the Village ; it is generally sufficient in quantity though somewhat hard in character. The supply is constant.

The outlying portions are dependent upon streams and shallow wells, which are somewhat liable to pollution. There is no plumb-solvent action. There is an ageeement with Manchester for a supply from their new works at Haweswater.

Rivers and Streams—

There is little liability to pollution and no complaints have been received from the County Council Inspector.

Drainage and Sewerage—

There is a stone drain at the North end of the Village, and a modern sewer at the South end. Sewage is received into settling tanks and the effluent is discharged at either end on to the land. This system is sufficient for the present needs.

Closet Accommodation—

Water closets	...	..	...	24
Privies	...	...	...	140
Pail closets	...	...	...	4
Total				168

There have been no recent conversions.

Scavenging—

This is undertaken by the Council and consists of the emptying of ashpits and privies when required. The refuse is deposited on tips clear of the Village and receptacles are disinfected after clearance.

There are no Ashbins in the District.

Inspections—

Number of premises inspected	...	...	100
Number of nuisances discovered :—			
Defective ashpits	...	...	5
Refuse accumulation	...	...	1
Total			6

No Statutory Notices have been issued, and 3 Informal ones, which have resulted in nuisances being abated.

Premises and Occupations controlled by Bye-Laws and Regulations—

Slaughter Houses	2
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No action has been needed.

There are no underground sleeping rooms.

Schools—

The sanitary conditions and water supplies are good ; there have been no closures for Infectious Disease.

Active co-operation exists between the School Medical Officer and the Medical Officer of Health.

Food.*(a) Milk Supply—*

This is good in quality and good in quantity.

There is no distribution ; it is obtained direct from farms.

Inspection of Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops is regularly carried out.

No action has been taken with regard to tuberculous milk.

The Milk and Cream Regulations are under the control of the police, as also the sale of Food and Drugs Act. No action has been necessary.

Milk (Mothers' and Children's) Order, 1918.—This is administered by the County Medical Officer of Health,

(b) *Bakehouses and Slaughter houses* have been well kept.

Surprise visits to the Slaughterhouses for the purpose of inspection are made from time to time ; there is always free access and any question of diseased meat is immediately communicated to the Inspector by the butchers themselves.

No meat has been condemned for Tuberculosis, but 120 lbs. of bacon in an unsound condition was condemned.

Slaughter Houses.

		<i>In 1914.</i>	<i>In Jan. 1920.</i>	<i>In Dec. 1920.</i>
Registered	...	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Licensed	...	2	2	2
		—	—	—
Total		2	2	2
		—	—	—

No case of food poisoning has occurred in the District.

Factories and Workshops.

Factories	...	...	3	Inspections	...	...	Nil.
Workshops	...	...	10				
Workplaces	...	...	1				
			—				
Total			14				
			—				

(c) *Other Foods—*

No unsound food has been discovered. The sanitary condition of premises where food is prepared, stored, or exposed for sale, has been good, and no action required to be taken respecting them.

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious Disease.

There was no prevalence of any Infectious Disease.

No cases of Encephalitis Lethargica occurred.

Influenza was not epidemic. Precautionary notices relating to Influenza were distributed to every house.

School intimations of infectious disease has been largely utilized, as also have bacteriological aids in suitable cases.

The Tuberculosis work and that of Venereal Disease is in the hands of the County Medical Officer of Health.

No primary vaccinations or re-vaccinations have been performed by the Medical Officer of Health under the Public Health (Smallpox Prevention) Regulations, 1917.

There have been no cases of locally contracted Anthrax or Rabies.

No facilities are available for cleansing and disinfection of verminous persons.

Table of Notified Infectious Diseases.

The only diseases notified were :—

Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	1
Tuberculosis (Non-Pulmonary)	..				1
					—
Total					2
					—

The Maternity and Child Welfare of the District is in the hands of the County Medical Officer of Health.

Sanitary Administration.

1. Staff.

There is one spare time Inspector, who also acts as Clerk and Surveyor.

2. Hospital Accommodation.

For ordinary Infectious Diseases consists of 4 wards providing 20 beds for Scarlet Fever Cases, and 16 for Diphtheria. It is situated at Ormside, 2 miles from Appleby and serves the whole of the northern part of the County. It is under the control of the Ormside Joint Board. It is sufficient for the purpose and the administration is good.

The hospital accommodation for Smallpox is situated near Kendal and consist of 50 beds for the use of all Westmorland except Kirkby Lonsdale.

Local Acts.

Byelaws are in force for :—

Private Scavenging.
Prevention of Nuisance.
New Streets and Buildings.

Laboratories.

The combined Districts of Westmorland have established local laboratories at Kendal for Chemical and Bacteriological examinations.

One examination for Shap was made that being for Diphtheria.

Housing.

Number of Houses	...	...	253
Houses for Working Classes	...	...	220
New Houses erected, or in course of erection			Nil
Population (estimated)	...	...	1000
Extent of shortage of houses	...	...	16

The Council have formulated a scheme for the building of these, but under existing circumstances it is held in abeyance.

Overcrowding.

This is not very serious and arises from sizes of families.

Fitness.

The general standard is fairly good ; the chief defects are due to dampness. Owners are generally quite ready to do necessary repairs, etc., considering high prices and the scarcity of manual labour.

There are no difficulties with regard to water supplies and refuse disposal. No action has been taken during the year.

Unhealthy Areas.

There are no extensive areas that can be included under this heading, and no action has been taken nor any complaints made during the year.

Bye-Laws.

The existing Bye-Laws work well and there does not appear to be any need for the revision of the existing ones.

Appendices.

Housing Conditions.

Statistics.

1.—GENERAL.

(1)	Estimated Population	...	...	...	1,000
(2)	General death rate	...	...	...	13.4
(3)	Death rate from tuberculosis	...	...	...	Nil.
(4)	Infantile mortality	...	...	...	105
(5)	Number of dwelling houses of all classes	...	...	...	253
(6)	Number of working class dwelling houses	...	...	...	220
(7)	Number of new working class houses erected	...	...	...	Nil.

2.—UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES.

1. Inspection.

(1) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts). ... 21

(2) Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Reg. 1910 ... Nil. all recorded.

(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... 1

(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... 20

2. Remedy of defects without service of formal notices.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action taken by the Local Authority or their Officers. ... 20

3. Action under Statutory Powers.

(a) Proceedings under Sec. 38 of the Housing Town Planning Act, etc., 1919.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... Nil.

(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit :—

(a) by Owners.

(b) by Local Authority in default of owners.

(3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close.

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Act.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.

(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied :—

(a) by Owners.

(b) by Local Authority in default of Owners Nil.

(c) Proceedings under sec. 17 and 18 of the Housing Town Planning Acts, etc., 1909.

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders ... Nil.

(2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... Nil.

(3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling houses having been rendered fit ... Nil.

(4) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... Nil.

(5) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... Nil.

3.—UNHEALTHY AREAS.

Areas represented to the Local Authority with a view to Improvement Schemes under (a) Part 1, or (b) Part 2 Nil.

Number of houses not complying with the building Bye-laws erected with the consent of Local Authority under sec. 25 of the Housing Town Planning, etc., Act, 1919 ... Nil.

Staff engaged on housing work with, briefly, the duties of each Officer ... One Housing Officer who acts as Inspector, etc.